

The **Parks and Recreation Board** met Monday, January 26, 2004 at 4:30 pm in the Board of Works Room at West Lafayette City Hall.

Present at said meeting were Mike Dana, Paula Woods, Karen Springer, and Attorney John Sorensen. Mayor Mills, Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes, Council Members Ann Hunt and Gil Satterly were also present. Wyatt Hornsby also attended. Joe Payne, Pennie Ainsworth, Chris Foley, Brenda Lorenz, Brian Tunis and Cheryl Kolb represented the Department. Absent were Park Board members Garnet Peck and Leon Trachtman. Also absent were Lee Booth and Council Member Gerry Keen.

Mike convened the Board at 4:35 pm.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the December 15th meeting. After noting a correction to the date and location of the December meeting, Paula motioned that the minutes be approved. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Superintendent – Joe reported on the following:

- Noted the Council Report was included in the mailing.

Assistant Superintendent – Pennie reported on the following:

- Reported that new playground equipment has been purchased to be placed in Happy Hollow Park in the two-five year old play area.
- Joe and Pennie met with Congdon Engineering regarding Phase II at Dubois Park.
- Sandy Laing has requested fliers to be displayed advertising a Photo Contest that is being sponsored by the Coalition for Living Well after 50 group.

Parks – Brian reported in Lee's absence on the following:

- Wrapping up the installation of Celery Bog boardwalk.
- Organizing the maintenance shop.
- Installed waterline to the new storage building at Tapawingo Park.
- Installed three information signs along the Northwest Greenway Trail.
- As of today, we began real snow removal.

Recreation – Chris reported on the following:

- The office was busy on Jan. 2nd with shelter reservations and mail-in registrations. The mail-in registration still proves to be the best way to handle the volume of registrations.
- Basketball – Third grade basketball was completed on Jan. 17th. Sixty-six children participated in this five week program. Fourth grade basketball started last week and the Fifth & Sixth grade program is still underway.
- Attendance at the Riverside Skating Center as of Dec. 31st is 5,316. Revenue as of Dec. 31st is \$26,196.00. The weather still plays a big factor in operation of the facility. Facility rentals are very popular this season.
- The Skating Center will host the first annual Dare to Bear; Polar Bear Skate on Friday, Feb. 6th (full moon). First hour is for the Polar Bear skaters only. Anyone that skates once around the rink in a bathing suit will receive free skate rental, a commemorative button and Papa Johns is providing free pizza for participants.

Morton Center – Brenda reported on the following:

- As of Friday, there have been 1,245 registrations compared to 1,422 registrations last year at this time, a decrease of 12.5%.
- There will be free tax assistance again this year at Morton for those people with basic tax returns, particularly those with low and limited income, individuals with disabilities, non-English speaking, non-Purdue students and elderly taxpayers on Wednesdays, Feb. 11-25 from 1:00pm to 4:45pm. Appointments are required. There is also assistance for non-English speaking Purdue students on Saturdays and Thursday evenings beginning at the end of February.

Beautification & Stewardship – Brian reported on the following:

- We have submitted an application for Tree City USA for the 13th time and the Tree Growth Award for the 5th time.
- Cutting and removing bush honeysuckle from Happy Hollow Park.
- TJA volunteers picked up trash. Kalberer Rd. netted 18 bags, 3 boxes, one sheet of insulation & a hub cap. Happy Hollow Park entrance netted 5 bags.
- Michaud sign is completed and at Morton.
- Planning for Wednesdays in the Wild program @ Lilly Nature Center has started.

Old Business

A. Morton Donation

John T. Taylor, the son of a former Morton School fifth grade teacher, presented a \$10,000.00 check to establish the Mildred R. Taylor Nature Projects Memorial Fund. The check was presented to Mayor Jan Mills, Parks Superintendent Joe Payne and the Park Board. A memorial plaque will hang outside of room 202, where she taught. Mr. Taylor presented some family background pertaining to his Mother, Mildred R. Taylor. He thanked Park Board member Paula Woods, a former neighbor of Mrs. Taylor, and Morton Center director Brenda Lorenz for their assistance in establishing the fund. Mayor Mills and Joe Payne both thanked Mr. Taylor for his generous contribution that will help the City to continue to provide outstanding parks, recreational facilities and educational programs. Joe added that the donation to the West Lafayette Parks and Recreation Foundation will be used for programs and facilities in Celery Bog Nature Area and Lilly Nature Center, as well as for other worthy nature projects throughout West Lafayette. Mr. Taylor also announced that he will be placing ads in the Journal & Courier and the Lafayette Leader seeking additional donations. Those donations to the Mildred R. Taylor Nature Projects Memorial Fund should be made payable to the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Foundation, P.O. Box 2391, West Lafayette, IN, 47996-2391.

B. 2004 Meeting Dates

At this time, Mayor Mills took the opportunity to say that Leon Trachtman was reappointed, and she gave an update on his health condition. Following the update, there was a brief discussion on future Park Board meeting dates. At this time, we are aware for the February 23rd meeting that Mike will not be able to attend, and that Paula and Karen will be able to attend. The March meeting had been set for March 15th, Purdue's Spring Break week. At this time we are aware that Mike will not be able to attend. Paula would be able to attend the 15th, but will be gone the following week,

March 22nd, and will not return until April 19th. Further discussion will take place regarding the March meeting.

New Business

A. Election of Officers

The following officers were presented as follows:

Mike Dana, President

Paula Woods, Vice-President

Leon Trachtman, Secretary

Karen motioned to approve the election of officers as presented. Paula seconded the motion and the motion carried.

B. Foundation Appointment

Joe presented the recommendation of appointing Jill Lesh from the School of Education @ Purdue. Paula motioned approval of appointing Jill Lesh to the West Lafayette Parks and Recreation Foundation. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Following the approval, Joe informed the Board that Patty Jischke has been reappointed and Linda Cohen was appointed by the City Council. Joe also acknowledged, and offered thanks to Lynn Layden, whose term has expired, for her hard work and dedication to the Foundation.

C. Festivals

Joe distributed maps showing the Taste of Tippecanoe festival area and generally discussed Dancing in the Streets plans. Joe reported that to the best of his knowledge, the beer site that was currently showing on the map near Tapawingo Dr. and the Riverside Skating Center could be crossed off. The committee has been looking at other alternatives. It was reported that there had been some discussion of fencing off the entire park area, to help maintain an area that that could be used to charge admission for the entry to the festival. There was discussion and general consensus that the Park Board was in support of plans but that the park near the river should not be included in the fenced area. There will be further discussions as planning continues.

West Lafayette School Board

Karen reported that the Happy Hollow School Task Force continues in full force. The group is in the process of reviewing both sites, Happy Hollow and Burtsfield, for remodeling projects and issues. She reported that they have had excellent turnouts for the public input sessions. A presentation will be made to the community on March 29th. She also discussed that this is an election year, with four seats open for the West Lafayette School Board. Those positions will begin July 1, 2004.

Wabash River Parkway Commission

Paula reported that the commission will meet next week.

Other

A. Lilly Nature Center

Joe reported that he received a summary of hours from Mary Cutler for the Lilly Nature Center. The report showed that 94% of the hours were staffed by volunteers. West Lafayette Parks and Recreation provided staff for only 6.25 hours, while volunteers provided 1,275.75 hours for 2003.

B. Geocaching

Joe reported that he received an email inquiring about using some of our facilities (mentioned were University Farm Park and Lommel Park) for geocaching. Below are some definitions found in the glossary that is located on <http://www.geocaching.com> that help define the sport.

cache

Pronounced "cash" - In geocaching it is a hidden container filled with a log book and pencil/pen, and possibly prizes. Caches were often used by explorers, miners, etc. to hide foodstuffs and other items for emergency purposes. People still hide caches of supplies today for similar reasons.

Geocaching comes from the terms "geo" and "cache" to explain the sport. Some caches have cash in them, but there is no pun intended :)

GPS

GPS stands for Global Positioning System. It is a system of satellites that work with a GPS receiver to determine your location on the planet.

Geocaching uses GPS to help hide and seek caches on the planet.

Purchase Orders

N/A

Pay Claims

Karen motioned that claims be paid. Paula seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Paula motioned the meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Presiding Officer

Secretary

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